

We claim:

1. A method for treating rosacea in a patient, comprising:
topically administering to a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said rosacea, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating rosacea.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 100,000 to about 180,000 centipoises.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 110,000 to about 220,000 centipoises.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.6 to about 4.8.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is formulated for once-per-day administration.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said once-per-day administration occurs in the A.M.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is formulated for twice-per-day administration.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is selected from the group consisting of a gel, cream, lotion, suspension, emulsion, ointment, foam, and mixtures thereof.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said topical composition is applied with an applicator.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said applicator is selected from the group consisting of a pledget, a pad, and combinations thereof.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is provided in a package of less than 5 g topical composition as a unit of use.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a human female.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a human of between 20 and 84 years old.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient is a human of at least 40 years old.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is stored at a temperature of less than about 30 °C.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein said benzoyl peroxide is about 65% to about 80% pure.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein said mixture comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight percent benzoyl peroxide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said mixture comprises about 1% to about 6.25% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said mixture comprises about 1.5% to about 3.5% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further contains at least one additional inactive ingredient in an amount effective to enhance the stability of said composition.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one inactive ingredient is selected from the group consisting of carbomer, disodium monolauryl sulfosuccinate, disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (disodium EDTA), methyl paraben, poloxamer, glycerin, dimethicone, hydrated silica, sodium

hydroxide, purified water, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein said rosacea exhibits effects selected from the group consisting of mite organism infestation, erythema, prominent vascularization, dryness, papules, pustules, swelling, telangiectasia, hypertrophy of the sebaceous glands, nodules, flushing, blushing, rhinophyma, and combinations thereof.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said mite organism is *Demodex folliculorum*.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is topically applied to sensitive skin areas, irritated skin areas, or inflamed skin areas.

29. A method for reducing or eliminating mite organisms that cause rosacea in a patient, comprising:

topically administering to skin of a patient infected with said mite organisms a topical composition in an amount effective to reduce or eliminate said mite organisms, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion,

clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in reducing or eliminating said mite organisms.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said mite organisms are *Demodex folliculorum*.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition is formulated for once-per-day or twice-per-day administration.

36. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition is selected from the group consisting of a gel, cream, lotion, suspension, emulsion, ointment, foam, and mixtures thereof.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said topical composition is applied with an applicator.

38. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition is provided in a package of less than 5 g topical composition as a unit of use.

39. The method of claim 29, wherein said mixture comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight percent benzoyl peroxide.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said mixture comprises about 1% to about 6.25% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said mixture comprises

about 1.5% to about 3.5% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

42. The method of claim 29, wherein said composition further contains at least one additional inactive ingredient in an amount effective to enhance the stability of said composition.

43. The method of claim 29, wherein said topical composition is topically applied to sensitive skin areas, irritated skin areas, or inflamed skin areas.

44. A method for treating rosacea in a patient having sensitive skin, comprising:

topically administering to sensitive skin areas, irritated skin areas, or inflamed skin areas of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said rosacea, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating rosacea.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

48. The method of claim 44, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

49. The method of claim 44, wherein said topical composition is selected from the group consisting of a gel, cream, lotion, suspension, emulsion, ointment, foam, and mixtures thereof.

50. The method of claim 44, wherein said mixture comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight percent benzoyl peroxide.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein said mixture comprises about 1% to about 6.25% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said mixture comprises about 1.5% to about 3.5% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

53. The method of claim 44, wherein said composition further contains at least one additional inactive ingredient in an amount effective to enhance the stability of said composition.

54. The method of claim 44, wherein said rosacea exhibits effects selected from the group consisting of mite organism infestation, erythema, prominent vascularization, dryness, papules, pustules, swelling, telangiectasia, hypertrophy of the sebaceous glands, nodules, flushing, blushing, rhinophyma, and combinations thereof.

55. A method for treating rosacea in a patient, comprising:
topically administering to a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said rosacea, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester

thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating rosacea;

and wherein said topical composition is administered concomitantly or sequentially with an additional active agent effective to treat said rosacea.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein said additional active agent is administered with said topical composition either in adjunctive or co-therapy.

57. The method of claim 55, wherein said additional active agent is selected from the group consisting of other macrolide antibiotics, bactericidal drugs, bacteriostatic drugs, cleansing agents, absorbents, anti-infective agents, anti-inflammatory agents, astringents, emollients, moisturizers, keratolytics, retinoids, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.